

# Reflections on promoting Nurturing Care as a cultural outsider

CIES 2024

March 7, 2024



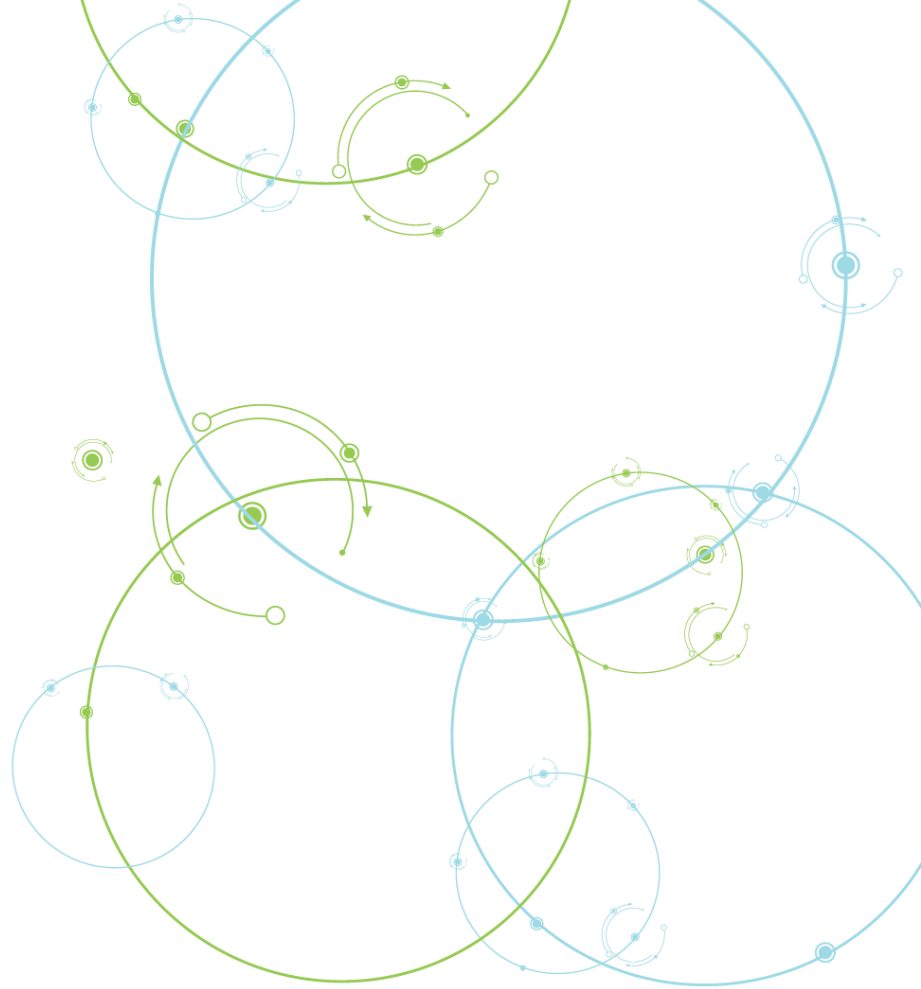
Nell O'Donnell Weber, Research Education Analyst, RTI International  
[ebweber@rti.org](mailto:ebweber@rti.org)



# About RTI

RTI International is both a **global research** institute and a leading **international development** organization.

We combine these powerful capabilities with those of our partners to co-create **smart, shared solutions** for a more **prosperous, equitable, and resilient** world.





# Positionality

- (Two examples of locally-led projects)
- My position as a white, American mother who has had the privilege of opportunity and (too much) education
- Technical advisor for ECD/pre-primary on Liberia TESTS and Senegal RELIT
- Curriculum consultant for Blackfeet and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe (non-RTI)

**Reflections and questions about shifting power.**



# Objectives

# What is nurturing care?

- The Nurturing care framework for early childhood development: A framework for helping children SURVIVE and THRIVE to TRANSFORM health and human potential.



(nurturing-care.org)

# OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

*An Office of the Administration for Children & Families*

## What is “charting a course for responsible parenting and economic mobility?”

- The goal of this three-year demonstration is to educate and motivate teens and young adults to postpone parenthood until after they complete their education, start a career, and engage in a committed relationship.



(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/grants/current-grants/responsible-parenting>)

[www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org)

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Success sequence

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# Projects



# Senegal RELIT

- Competency-based
- Mother-tongue bilingual
- Inclusive
- Integrated (holistic)
- Child-centered
- Playful
- Scripted
- Strong partnerships

Vente interdite



Version provisoire

## Guide de l'enseignant

Dowirde jannginoowo  
seksiyonj mawdo oo



**Pulaar | Tome 2**

Renforcement de la Lecture Initiale pour Tous (RELIT)



**Administration for Children and Families**

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting - Cohort 2

HHS-2021-ACF-OCSE-FD-1858

Application Due Date: 03/24/2021

Social realities and responsibilities of parenting.

Emotional realities and responsibilities of parenting.

Legal realities and responsibilities of parenting.

Financial realities and responsibilities of parenting.

Can estimate the monthly cost of caring for a child.

Pathways to establish legal paternity.

Understand the rights of fathers.

Honor the creator.

Honor elders.

Honor women.

Honor the natural world.

Be peaceful.

Be moderate in thoughts,  
words, and deeds.

Be kind to everyone.

Be courageous.

Keep our promises.



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**My challenge:**  
How to reconcile this,  
given the historical  
context, while still  
meeting the goals and  
requirements of the  
grant?

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# Values, culture, and context

# What is culture?

- Traditions
- Customs
- Values
- Beliefs/religion
- Language
- Food
- Family
- Social norms

# How is culture transmitted?

- Through socialization
- Families/parents
- Schools
- Religious institutions
- Etc.

# What are parenting beliefs?

- How to discipline
- How a child should be educated
- How a child should be fed
- What is health
- How children should behave to elders
- How to behave in society

# How are parenting beliefs developed?

1. Beliefs come directly (and unquestioned) through the culture.
2. Beliefs are formed through the holder's own childhood, family, and parenting experiences.
3. Beliefs are influenced by the exchange of ideas and assumptions of people from different cultures.

McGillicuddy-De Lisi & Subramanian, 1996)

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- The goal of this three-year demonstration is to educate and motivate teens and young adults to **postpone parenthood** until **vs.** they can complete their education, start a career, and engage in a committed relationship.

Children are a gift from the creator.



Do we know what we are doing when we promote nurturing care, parenting practices, and more?

How can we protect what is good?

What is the cost of change/no change?

# Where to go from here?

- Know what you are doing. Be honest with yourself.
- Make space for context-specific definitions of success.
- Treat others like humans.
- Culture is dynamic, varied, and can be contradictory.

# Thank You!

Nell O'Donnell Weber | [ebweber@rti.org](mailto:ebweber@rti.org)

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